

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 MCT-01 /041 W
----- 109767

R 241650Z NOV 76
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1502
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 411

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN FOR RESTORATION SPECIAL CATEGORY
STATUS

REF: BELFAST 358 AND PREVIOUS

1. ABOUT 14 REPUBLICAN CONVICTS MAZE/LONG KESH WHO DENIED SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS BECAUSE THEIR CRIMES COMMITTED AFTER MARCH 1, 1976 ARE ENGAGED IN PASSIVE PROTEST. THEY REFUSE TO WORK OR WEAR PRISON UNIFORMS AND IN CELLS WEAR ONLY BLANKETS. THEY ALSO REFUSING RECEIVE VISITORS. CONVICTS ARE IN INDIVIDUAL HEATED CELLS BUT THERE UNDOUBTEDLY SOME HARDSHIP SINCE THEY MUST LEAVE CELLS TO BATHE AND EAT. IT FORBIDDEN TO TAKE BEDDING FROM THESE CELLS SO ASSUMPTION IS THAT PRISONERS ARE NAKED WHEN OUTDOORS. REPUBLIC REMAND PRISONERS (THOSE AWAITING TRIAL) AT BELFAST CRUMLIN ROAD JAIL HAVE REFUSED TO COOPERATE IN APPEARANCES FOR HEARINGS. THEY ARE BEING CARRIED BY GUARDS AND WHEN IN COURTROOM LIE ON FLOOR. FEMALE PRISONER AT HEARING NOVEMBER 24 ANNOUNCED REPUBLICAN WOMEN AT ARMAGH PRISON SUPPORTED MEN AND DISTURBANCE IN PUBLIC GALLERIES CAUSED COURT TO BE CLEARED. SIX WOMEN IN TURF LODGE ESTATE SPENT NIGHT NOVEMBER 23-24 IN TENT CLOTHED ONLY IN BLANKETS AS TOKEN SOLIDARITY WITH PRISONERS AND FATHER DENIS FAUL HAS

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BEGUN POSE QUESTIONS ABOUT TREATMENT PRISONERS.

2. SO FAR PUBLIC OBJECTIONS TO TERMINATION SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS CONFINED TO PRISONERS AND THEIR RELATIVES. MASS PROTESTS HAVE NOT DEVELOPED. ABOUT 58 OTHER MEN HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF TERRORIST CRIMES COMMITTED SINCE MARCH 1 BUT HAVE ACCEPTED SITUATION WITHOUT RESISTANCE. HOWEVER, TWO PRISON GUARDS SHOT RECENTLY AND PROVISIONAL IRA HAS DECLARED THEM LEGITIMATE TARGETS.
SPICER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, TERRORISTS, DEATHS, ATROCITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00411
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760438-0857
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761115/aaaaamry.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BELFAST 358
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 AUG 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <22 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN FOR RESTORATION SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006